

# Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship

## The Midweek Update

### August 8, 2018

Do I say this every summer? Dang it seems like BUF has more going on than usual for the summer season.

...And things to celebrate: The Pride Sunday service, and Saturday Interweave dance at BUF, and the ensuing Bellingham Pride Parade were all so energetic! It felt like the biggest Pride gathering yet. And six churches were celebrating...all with booths at the farmer's market (where the parade ended), which was packed with Bellingham's most colorful crowd. BUF, of course, was part of that color, with our rainbow umbrella troupe once again drawing big cheers.



Our celebration of Nelson Mandela's birthday was a musical extravaganza. Two of them, actually, with a Saturday concert and Sunday service drawing many guests from the larger community. The "Intersectionality" service this past Sunday, coordinated by the Black Lives Matter Ministry Action Team, had some people in tears. *Simultaneously*, we lent our support to Community to Community's March for Dignity, coordinated with *Familias Unidas por Justicia*. This was a 12 mile march to commemorate the one year anniversary of the death of Ernesto Silva Ibarra, a farmworker in the H2A visa program who died in inhumane conditions in the field last summer in Sumas. In July our new Family Promise Ministry Action Team fulfilled their promise of providing meals and support to homeless families, in collaboration with partners in a dozen local congregations.

It wasn't intentional, but it's interesting that our summer services, led by a series of lay leaders, began with Rod Haynes' reflections on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 1968. Because gay rights, treatment of migrant workers, racial discrimination, poverty, empowerment of women, voting rights, low-points in American politics... all were prominent themes in 1968. And I imagine that for a lot of us (even the younger ones) the events of 1968 were significant in shaping our commitment to social justice — commitments to a lifetime of work.

Behind the scenes we had summer projects and fall planning for the All Church Retreat, Chalice Circles, IT, Hospitality, Healthy Relationships, Finance, Buildings and Grounds, Human Resources, the Board of Trustees (and others I'm missing)... I know that each of these groups met more than once, some several times over the summer, keeping BUF humming and ready to welcome new friends and collaborators.

Cheers, Kudos, and Courage,  
*Paul*

It is with a heavy heart I report the death of Dorothy Davis, age 84, on Friday, August 3. She had recently been hospitalized with pneumonia then had a stroke. She had home hospice for the last couple of weeks so Bob was with her at her peaceful passing. Dorothy was an indomitable force and a relentless seeker of justice. She felt she had had a wonderful and full life so she was at peace with leaving this existence, but she will be sorely missed by her family and friends. She is survived by her husband, Bob, and their three daughters, Melanie, Andrea, and Kathleen who are in town now to support Bob. There will be a Celebration of Life service at BUF, October 6 at 2:00pm.

~Ginny Davis, Pastoral Care Committee

## Sundays in August

- **Aug 12 - Connect: My Journey to the Jungle and Back** Presented by Jesus Velazquez. Through my Life Journey and career, there has been this hidden feeling or drive to be great, to be the best, the most Holy and the strongest that I can be. You maybe have similar conscious or unconscious patterns that tell you to go out and be all you can be. This is great and I want to bring down to its practicality and simplicity. Because, if you buy into the archetype of the chosen one, you may be willing to die to save the world if you believe you're the one. I want to shatter that concept and bring Spirituality to our daily life and career, whatever it might be.
- **Aug 19 - What Would a Post-Industrial Society Look Like?** Philosopher, activist, and opera trained singer, Madeline McNeill will share music, poetry, and reflection, exploring with us the idea that humans are finite bodies... and thus how she envisions *a spirituality of being a body* to support a post-industrial society and skills economy (which includes breaking down the destructive systems of capitalism, challenging ideas of a limitless self, and addressing climate change).
- **Aug 26 - Bike and Build** A group of young adults are travelling across the country, stopping periodically to build/clean/work on homelessness projects. We'll hear from them about how this experience has shaped their understanding of themselves and the world we live in.

## Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship

### Summary Income & Expense Report

As of June 30, 2018 (100% of fiscal year)

	Actual to Date July - June 2018	Fiscal Year Budget	% of Budget
<b>INCOME</b>			
Pledges, Donations & Fundraising	\$394,703	\$353,301	117%
Rental, Special Collections & Programs	\$81,836	\$57,100	143%
Interest Income	\$11,196	\$100	8113%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$487,735</b>	<b>\$410,501</b>	<b>188%</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Denominational Dues & Fundraising Expense	\$23,762	\$25,454	93%
Facilities, Utilities, Administrative & Program Expense	\$134,869	\$123,795	108%
Staffing Expense	\$252,035	\$251,147	100%
Reserves	\$18,368	\$10,105	182%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$429,034</b>	<b>\$410,501</b>	<b>105%</b>
<b>NET INCOME (LOSS)</b>	<b>\$25,809</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>CC+ Capitol Campaign Income (Ends 12/31/18)</b>	<b>\$32,892</b>	<b>\$70,000</b>	

*This information is provided regarding our annual budget only. For full information on BUF's financial status, see the Treasurers' Reports, available for review as part of the Board of Trustees' monthly meeting minutes, available in the work room.*

## Attention Families with Children in Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> Grades!

BUF is excited to announce that we will be offering Our Whole Lives, or OWL in an eight-session curriculum for five- to seven-year-olds. It is based on the philosophy that parents or whoever is filling that role in a child's life, have primary responsibility for sexuality education with their children. And educating institutions such as BUF, can form a meaningful partnership for positive and responsibly sexuality education. It is our belief that sexuality is a lifelong process of acquiring information and forming attitudes and values about identity and relationships, intimacy, and health.

Our Whole Lives is a positive, comprehensive, and age-appropriate educational program that supports those beliefs. For more information on OWL, please visit the UUA website to learn more: <https://www.uua.org/re/owl>

The cost is \$25.00, and registration can be done online here:

**OUR WHOLE LIVES: LIFESPAN SEXUALITY EDUCATION | UUA.org**  
[www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org)



Our Whole Lives (OWL) is a series of sexuality education curricula that helps participants make informed and responsible decisions about sexual health and behavior.

<https://buf.breezechms.com/form/e5a11799>

Until August 1<sup>st</sup>, BUF families will be given priority registration. After that, we will open registration up to community members.

The dates and times are:

Mandatory Parents'/Legal Guardians' Information Night: Wednesday, September 19<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8pm

Grown up/Child Orientation Program Night: Wednesday, September 26<sup>th</sup> from 6-8:30

OWL dates: September 30, October 7, 14, 21, 28, November 4, 11, 18 during service 10:30-11:45.

Childcare will be provided at the information and orientation nights.

Any questions? Please contact Mullane Harrington at 360-319-9853 or [muhwane@hotmail.com](mailto:muhwane@hotmail.com).



### **Don't Forget Early Bird registration for 2018 All Church Retreat!**

Early Bird Registration Deadlines Coming Up on Aug 1st for BUF **2018 All Church Retreat** At Camp Kirby Sept 21-23. Register at [www.buf.org/retreats](http://www.buf.org/retreats) or downstairs during Coffee Hour.

**Summer Office Hours** at BUF: Tuesday –Friday: 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

Midweek Update Summer Schedule:

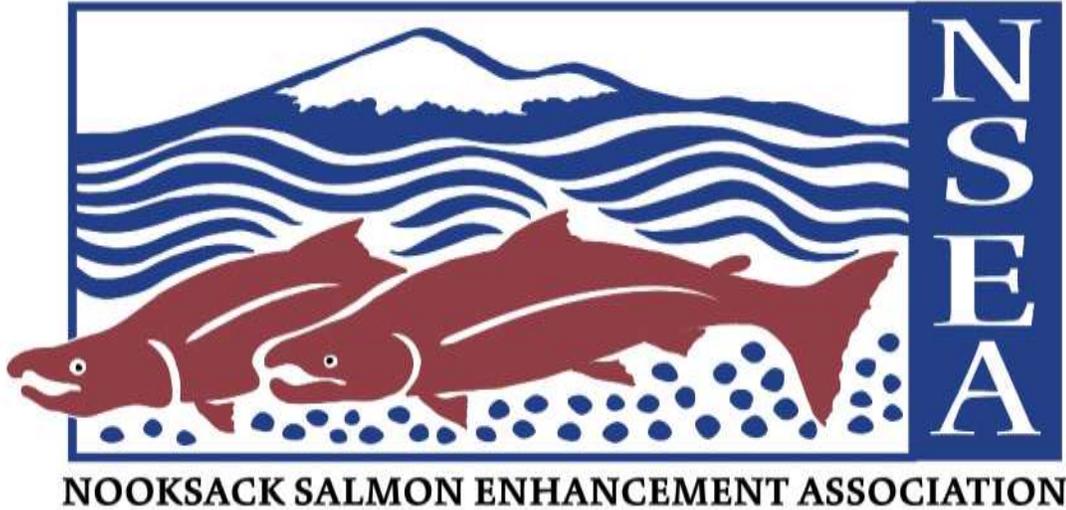
Aug 15 - No midweek update

Aug 22 - Regular weekly publication of the midweek update will resume. Announcements need to be in by close of business on Tuesday, August 21<sup>st</sup>

All of the following to resume in September: Sunday Forums, Sunday Religious Education, Choir, Community Night Dinners, Lunch with Paul...

## Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association—August Special Collection Recipient

The NSEA believes that Salmon is part of our spiritual, cultural, economic, food and environmental needs. Its habitat is endangered and requires restoration by



engaging our community in action, education and stewardship. NSEA is seeking a grant from BUF to enable the education of one segment, the fourth grade children of Whatcom County, in Salmon restoration, as future decision makers. NSEA's

*Students for Salmon* (SFS) is a hands-on, outdoors environmental science program. It helps teachers with their classroom curriculum, and to cultivate stream stewardship. The students then participate in field activities in a creek near their area. The program thus involves a total of 15 hours.

NSEA is pleased to report that in the school year 2016-17, 93% of the participating students increased their understanding of the requirements of a healthy salmon habitat.

For more information and current program accomplishments, please see Part II in the next issue of BUF-MWU, August 22. Your contributions will help sustain the area's life force.

Sita Amba-Rao

### Family Promise Program Update



We survived a full week of caring for 3 families: 9 active children and 3 adults!!!! Hurray for us and the fabulous 15+ folks from BUF who made it happen along with all our wonderful partners from Garden Street Methodist. (35 total volunteers, 300 volunteer hours) Volunteer coordinator, Megan Hicks from Garden Street will be taking a break and passing the baton to Greg Hartgraves, husband of pastor Kathleen Hartgraves. Greg has asked us for our feedback and follow-up at an upcoming meeting at Garden Street Methodist, August 12th Sunday, 12 noon in their downstairs dining room. Bring a snack or just come, since I'll bring several snacks to share. You can always

send your feedback via e-mail to me. I plan to go and will share your thoughts. I know we have a lot to do to improve our work including food/meal planning. Thanks to those volunteers who did double duty during our week. (you know who you are!!!) I plan to put a thank you in the mid-week update. Also, there is an upcoming Volunteer Training, if you haven't been able to go to one yet: August 16th, 6-8 pm at the 1st Congregational Church. Some new people have been added to our volunteer roster. Our next week of responsibility is October 14-21. So please mark your calendars and save a date to help. Sincerely, Ann Stevenson, F.P. BUF Volunteer Coordinator

## Humanitas - Helping People In a Pinch



Our doors will be open throughout the summer, but we will not be in touch again until September 5. Then, we will once more share with you some stories from people who have requested our assistance. Thanks to you, we have been able to provide most of them with a little relief from their struggles. We hope you enjoy your summer, dear people, and here is our blessing: "May you be peaceful, happy and well, and may no harm come to you." ~ *The Humanitas Team*

### Lummi Food Bank

Keep Lummi Food Bank in your thoughts. Maybe think in the line of donating a meal for a family putting together ingredients for a hearty soup, chili, or entre. If every family or every unit could commit to something that would serve more than one person just think of the substantial impact BUF could have. A shopping basket for your donations is in front of the elevator. Thank you for your donations. ~ Carol Dukes



### *EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES*

#### Wednesday, August 8

10:00 AM Humanitas: The Latin word humanitas has many meanings but the main definition is humanity and kindness. The Roman concept of humanitas described the humane virtues that were expected from educated people.

#### **HARNESSING THE POWER OF LOVE TO CREATE CHANGE**

[Black Lives Matter Ministry Team](#) meeting will be held on at 7:00 PM. The BUF Black Lives



Matter Ministry Action Team seeks to nurture the social, spiritual and personal development of congregation members in the exploration of how racism and privilege impact our congregation, our community, and our nation. In particular, we acknowledge the targeted violence which impacts black people disproportionately. We are committed to harnessing the power of love to dismantle racism and white supremacy across our communities and to creating spaces inclusive of people of all races, ethnicities, and cultural backgrounds. We meet consistently, every second and fourth Wednesday of the month at 7pm in the Conference Room.

#### Thursday, August 9

The **Flowering Cherry Sangha** engages in meditation practice, study and topic-focused discussion. Join us in the Meditation Room downstairs next to the BUF library every Thursday at 2:00 pm. Chairs are provided; bring a cushion if you wish. For more information contact David Gillespie at [davidgillespie72@gmail.com](mailto:davidgillespie72@gmail.com).

**Friday, August 10: No events or activities**

**Saturday, August 11: BUF Board of Trustees Retreat, 8:30am Social Hall**

### Sunday, August 12

- **10:30 am Worship Connect: My Journey to the Jungle and Back-** A Journey of Self Discovery onto the Path of Mastery. Presented by Jesus Velazquez. The subtitle itself gives a good overview and summary of what I want to share. When reading it one may think of it as a grand and unbelievable goal. Mastery. Through my Life Journey and career, there has been this hidden feeling or drive to be great, to be the best, the most Holy and the strongest that I can be. You maybe have similar conscious or unconscious patterns that tell you to go out and be all you can be. This is great and I want to bring down to its practicality and simplicity. Because, if you buy into the archetype of the chosen one, you may be willing to die to save the world if you believe you're the one. I want to shatter that concept and bring Spirituality to our daily life and career, whatever it might be.

- 11:30 AM Coffee Hour

**Monday, August 13**

#### **The Natural Balance in All Things . . .**

Join us at 4:30 pm for Life Exercise, a program of gentle movement drawn from Chinese Tai Chi and Japanese health exercises. All levels of fitness are welcome. For more information, contact Lee Seaman, (360) 676-8543, lseaman@seamanmedical.com.



**Tuesday, August 14: No events or activities**

**Wednesday, August 15**

10:00 AM Humanitas: The Latin word humanitas has many meanings but the main definition is humanity and kindness. The Roman concept of humanitas described the humane virtues that were expected from educated people.

**Thursday, August 16**



**Flowering Cherry Sangha** engages in meditation practice, study and topic-focused discussion. Join us in the Meditation Room downstairs next to the BUF library every Thursday at 2:00 pm. Chairs are provided; bring a cushion if you wish. For more information contact David Gillespie at [davidgillespie72@gmail.com](mailto:davidgillespie72@gmail.com).